The above does not include payment on pension. The various pension and other retirement benefits to pensionable employees are met out of the Pension Fund.

The production in six production units of the Railways, and the various workshops on the zonal Railways, in financial terms, during 1997-98 to 1999-2000 is as under:-

	(*Rs. in cr.*)
1997-98	4323
1998-99	4818
1999-2000	4936

Social obligations do not constitute a separate item of expenditure. The term refers basically to the losses arising from incomplete recovery of costs on certain services.

Jammu Poonch Rail Line

4414. MIRZA ABDUL RASHID Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a survey for Jammu to Poonch rail line has already been conducted; if so, whether this survey was to be authenticated by Government; and

(b) whether Government propose to authenticate this surveyed track without further loss of time, to connect these extreme sensitive border districts of Rajouri and Poonch with the rest of the country; if so, by when this project would be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) As per the updated survey report of November 2000, the cost of construction of new line from Jammu to Poonch (223 kms.) has been assessed as Rs. 4574.15 crs. with a negative rate of return. In view of constraint of resources and unremunerative nature of the project, it has not been considered feasible to take up this project.

Introduction/Withdrawal of Trains

4415. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new trains introduced and the number of trains withdrawn from different Railway Zones during last three years;

(b) on which routes the withdrawn trains were running; and

(c) the reasons for withdrawing those trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Library-cum-Bookstall on Long Distance Trains

4416. PROF. RAMDEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the pantry cars are provided on trains as an essential passenger facility, despite a heavy loss being incurred by the Railways on this count;

(b) whether the Ministry of Railways had decided in the past to provide mobile library-cum-bookstall in long distance trains as an essential facility to passengers, like pantry cars, and not on commercial considerations; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for not providing library-cum-bookstall facility in long distance trains operating on all the Indian Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir. The pantry cars have been provided on selected mail/express trains as a measure of passenger amenity.

(b) and (c) Mobile libraries were introduced in the past in a few selected mail & express trains on experimental basis and not as an essential facility. However, this scheme has not been successful as bookstalls are available at almost all important stations.

New Trains in Orissa

4417. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of the five new trains announced to be introduced for Orissa during the current year, only one new Bhubaneswar-Palasa Intercity Express train has been introduced so far;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in introduction of the remaining trains; and